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General Assembly

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Committee on Conferences
Organizational session for 2015

Annotated provisional agenda for the organizational session for 2015

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda for the organizational session for 2015.
4. Organization of work for 2015:
   (a) Intersessional departures and related matters;
   (b) Provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2016 and 2017.
5. Programme of work for 2015.
6. Adoption of the agenda and dates for the substantive session of 2015.
7. Other business.

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

2. Election of officers

Rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that committees other than Main Committees shall elect a Chair, one or more Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. The Bureau of the Committee on Conferences comprises a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

At its organizational session for 1989, held on 1 March 1989, the Committee agreed in principle that thenceforth the chairmanship would rotate annually among the regional groups. At its organizational session for 2014 (529th meeting), held on 23 April 2014, the Committee agreed in principle that the Chair would undertake

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informal consultations with a view to determining the composition of the Bureau for 2015 and that the Chair and the other members of the Bureau would continue in their capacities until the 2015 Bureau had been elected.

Documentation: Membership of the Committee on Conferences for 2015 (A/AC.172/2015/INF/1) (to be issued)

3. Adoption of the agenda for the organizational session for 2015

4. Organization of work for 2015

At its organizational session for 2014, the Committee adopted the agenda for its substantive session of 2014 and requested the Secretariat to submit to it at its organizational session for 2015 a provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2015.

(a) Intersessional departures and related matters

The Committee will consider requests for intersessional departures in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 46/190, in which the Assembly took note of the guidelines adopted by the Committee (A/46/32, para. 77), and in accordance with the decisions taken by the Committee at its 373rd meeting, on 26 August 1994, at its 379th meeting, on 23 March 1995, and at its substantive session of 1995.

In accordance with legislative mandates, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management will administer the programme of meetings as stated in the report of the Secretary-General on improving the performance of the Department (A/57/289, para. 15).

Moreover, meetings of the Committee may be required under the terms of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A, by which the Assembly decided that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

(b) Provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2016 and 2017

In its decision 1988/103, the Economic and Social Council decided to invite the Committee to review the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the Council and to submit, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council.

The provisional calendar for the biennium 2016-2017 will be available for consideration by the Committee before the coordination and management meeting, at the substantive session of the Council from 20 to 22 July 2015. The Committee may wish to meet on the proposed date of 25 June 2015 to review the provisional calendar and to submit its observations and recommendations to the Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2015. In this context, the Committee's attention is drawn to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 69/250 on the pattern of conferences.

Documentation: Provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2016 and 2017 (E/2015/L.__)

5. Programme of work for 2015

The terms of reference of the Committee are set forth in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988.

The annex to the present document contains a provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2015. The provisional agenda takes into account standing mandates from the Committee and the General Assembly, as well as information requested by the Assembly in its resolution 69/250. In the annotations to the provisional agenda the relevant paragraphs in the above resolution are referred to instead of being quoted in extenso.

The information requested by the General Assembly will be presented in a consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences. Statistical and other relevant data will be presented as information supplementary to the report.

6. Adoption of the agenda and dates for the substantive session of 2015

The Committee may wish to reconfirm the approved dates of 8 to 14 September 2015 for its substantive session.

7. Other business

Annex

Annotated provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2015

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Calendar of conferences and meetings:
   (a) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243;
   (b) Adoption of the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2016 and 2017;
   (c) Intersessional departures for 2015.
3. Meetings management:
   (a) Utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities:
      (i) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs and consultations with/letters to bodies concerning utilization of conference-servicing resources;
      (ii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of bodies entitled to meet "as required";
      (iii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;
      (iv) Utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;
      (v) Utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa;
   (b) Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation.
4. Integrated global management.
5. Matters related to documentation and publications.
6. Matters related to translation and interpretation.
7. Organization of work.
8. Adoption of the report and proposed dates for the organizational and substantive sessions for 2016.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

2. Calendar of conferences and meetings

(a) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

The Secretariat will report on requests received pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 47/202 A and section I, paragraph 7, of Assembly resolution 40/243, for action by the Committee.

Documentation: Letter from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the seventieth session of the General Assembly (A/70/__)

(b) Adoption of the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2016 and 2017

The Secretariat will prepare a draft calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2016-2017 for consideration by the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session of 2015.

The Committee will submit the draft calendar to the General Assembly at its seventieth session for approval.

Documentation: Draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2016 and 2017 (A/AC.172/2015/L.__)

(c) Intersessional departures for 2015

The Secretariat will compile a list of requests for intersessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences and meetings for 2015, together with information on any action taken by the Committee.

3. Meetings management

(a) Utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

(i) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs and consultations with/letters to bodies concerning utilization of conference-servicing resources

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to paragraphs 14 to 21, 23 and 27 of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

Documentation: Statistical data and analysis of the planned and actual utilization of conference-servicing resources allocated to a core sample of bodies at all four duty stations will be made available to the Committee as supplementary information. The Chair will report orally on consultations with bodies in New York and on written communications with bodies at other duty stations that have underutilized their conference-servicing resources.

(ii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of bodies entitled to meet "as required"

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

(iii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to paragraphs 24 to 26 of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

(iv) Utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

(v) Utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to paragraphs 29 to 33 of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

(b) Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section II.B of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

4. Integrated global management

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section III of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

5. Matters related to documentation and publications

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to paragraphs 66 to 106 of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

6. Matters related to translation and interpretation

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to paragraphs 107 to 133 of General Assembly resolution 69/250.

7. Organization of work

In section II.A, paragraph 20, of its resolution 57/283 B, the General Assembly encouraged the Committee to keep under continued review the procedures for the participation of observers in the work of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report and proposed dates for the organizational and substantive sessions for 2016

The Committee will adopt its draft report for 2015 and the draft resolution on the pattern of conferences for recommendation to the General Assembly at its seventieth session. The Committee will approve the dates proposed for its organizational and substantive sessions for 2016.